

Gate construction affects, benefits all

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The guard shack that stood for many years at the entrance to Smith Barracks is nothing more than a memory and a mound of rubble since construction of a new gate began in March.

No other construction sight has affected more people and will continue to effect more people once completed than the renovation of Baumholder's main gate.

Construction on the main gate began March 17 but the project started affecting people even before then. Shortly before construction began, motorists and pedestrians who wanted to enter on post via the main gate discovering that the gate was boarded up and Baumholder was "closed."

Since then, motorists and pedestrians have adjusted to the minor inconvenience of entering Smith barracks through one of its other entry points.

"Essentially it's a whole new gate," said Jamie McCormick, Army Corps of Engineers project officer. "We've demolished the existing gate and we're installing new ID check booths, a covered search area

with in-floor and ceiling lighting and a new guard house," she said.

The new gate will include three entry lanes, that McCormick feels will increase the speed of access to Smith Barracks, one exit lane and a turnaround area.

The old vehicle check point area allowed for only three or four vehicles to be checked at one time, which often backed up traffic during peak hours. The new gate will include 18 areas for vehicle searches/inspections. "It actually extends lower down the hill closer to Peach Street. The ID area is lower down the hill and the search area is approximately where the old guard shack used to be," said McCormick.

Overall "It's going to be a more secure entry way," said McCormick.

The Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing the details and specifications of the construction and SKEMaintenance GmbH & Co KG from Mannheim is performing the work.

The concept and design for the new entrance was drawn up by the 104th Area Support Group Directorate of Public Works.

In all, the new entrance is expected to benefit both the security force and motorists and has a price tag of about 996, 414 Euro.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

A pile of dirt and gravel now covers the site of the old guard shack at the entrance to Smith Barracks. The new entrance to Baumholder will feature 18 stations for vehicle checks and inspections and is expected to expedite traffic flow onto the installation.

Red Cross honors volunteers

By Sarah Goldfeder Schmidt

Red Cross volunteer

The American Red Cross in Baumholder acknowledged the help of two groups and one individual during its annual volunteer recognition luncheon May 8. The Baumholder Community Spouses' Club and Christine Doboszinski received Good Neighbor awards for their overall support and assistance to the community and specifically for their partnerships with the American Red Cross.

The Commissary and its manager, Reed Leader, were acknowledged for supporting the American Red Cross mission of providing good cheer to deployed troops.

The annual event was hosted by Jacquie Mack, field office coordinator.

After the meal, Lt. Co. Todd A. Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, George Georgakous, Red Cross hub manager, and Glenn Alexander, assistant station manger all spoke of their appreciation for work volunteers do. Buchs noted that American Red Cross volunteers serve in many ways, from enhancing the

service at the dental and health clinics to ensuring that emergency messages are received by service members in a timely manner.

Lt. Col. Frank Bannister, Baumholder Clinic commander and Lt. Col. Grace Franklin, chief nurse, represented the health clinic. American Red Cross volunteers assist in the clinic at medical records, in the laboratory, and at the central appointment desk. This work is crucial in providing prompt and courteous service to both military and family members alike.

Col. Eldon Mitchell, DENTAC Baumholder commander, was also on hand to recognize one of the most noteworthy programs for volunteers on military installations. The Dental Assistant Program Officer in Charge, Capt. Trina Collins, oversees this program that allows volunteers to learn a skill while contributing to the community. Participants in the Dental Assistant Program assist in the clinic providing direct patient care. Other volunteers in the Dental Clinic work with medical records, as receptionists, and even as a dental technician.

Mack acknowledged the volunteers within the Red Cross office

where they provide continuity of service. Routine office work is augmented on a daily basis by the work volunteers do. Red Cross volunteers support the mission of the Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services by assisting with casework and maintaining the lines of communication between military families overseas, their families, and command.

Some of the most important work done by the American Red Cross in the Armed Forces is maintaining an upbeat morale in both service members and their families. Betty Harter was singled out for her contribution to the organization of special activities such as the Coffee Break program. Sarah Schmidt recognized volunteer instructors who teach valuable skills through the Red Cross First Aid and CPR program to community youth in baby sitting classes and lifeguarding and water safety skills courses.

This annual recognition allows the community to thank volunteers for their contributions. All involved with the event agree that volunteers help maintain the high quality of life that makes Baumholder a one of a kind community.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Johnnisha Rice, a Red Cross Volunteer, helps herself to a snack during the Red Cross volunteer recognition luncheon.

June MWR calendar loaded with outdoor action

By Heather Ybarra
Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing

June is here, school will soon be out, summer is upon us and Morale, Welfare and Recreation has its calendar full of activities for everyone to enjoy.

Rolling Hills Golf Course and the Baumholder Bowling Center are offering activities that will allow customers the opportunity to win great prizes.

At Rolling Hills, if golfers find a red ball in their bucket of balls at the driving range they are an instant winner and they can also enter to win a great golf escape vacation.

The Baumholder Bowling Center is playing Mystery Bowl II. Enter to win prizes all summer long.

On June 26, Rolling Hills Golf Course will have a Nike Demo Day. Come out and try many of the Nike brand products and receive a discount on any Nike product bought in the pro shop.

Heineken will be on hand to

conduct a tasting and give away some merchandise. The fun starts at noon.

The Baumholder Rod and Gun Club has many different activities planned throughout the month of June. Every Thursday night is Cinema night. Kids can enjoy a great movie with free popcorn and kool-aid from 5 – 7 p.m. On June 7, kids can bring out their toys, games and clothes to sell at the Kids' Flea Market from noon – 4 p.m. There is sure to be many items they will want to purchase as well. Kiddie Bingo is June 22 from 3 – 5 p.m. Kids can enjoy the game of Bingo and win some great toy prizes as well. Don't worry, Moms, we didn't forget you. We will have White El-



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Brandt Gardner, retail operator at Baumholder's Rod and Gun Club and Mary Jane Spreier, club manager, show off their seasonal sign outside the renovated facility. The sign is changed depending on the season of the the year. Now, however, is the season to show support for the deployed force.

phant Bingo on June 18 from 7:30 – 10 p.m. Bring in items from your home to be used as prizes.

Step It, Cycle It, or Walk It all the way to Garmisch without leaving Baumholder. From May 19 – Aug. 15, you can participate in our Trek to Garmisch challenge. Simply come out to any of the gyms in Baumholder, Strassburg, or Neubrücke and go the distance to Garmisch (300 miles). Simply sign up and every time you use the stairmaster, stationary bike or treadmill, record your mileage. If you reach 300 miles before Aug. 15, you will be entered to win the grand prize of a sports week for two to Garmisch, valued at \$550. There will be many other prizes as well, so

what are you waiting for?

Amusement parks, adventure and sight-seeing – Baumholder Outdoor Recreation has many trips planned for June.

June 1, Six Flags Holland
June 7, White Water Kayaking

June 7, Paris City Express
June 7, Metz Flea Market
June 8, Six Flags Belgium
June 10, Sea Kayaking
June 14 – 15, Paragliding Course

June 20 – 22, Camping in Garmisch

June 21, Metz Flea Market
June 22, Legoland
June 24, Sea Kayaking
June 28 – 29, Paragliding Course

Whatever you enjoy, Baumholder MWR is sure to have something for you to do this summer.

Watch for more information on our American Pride Celebration on July 4 at Minnick Field. This will be a day you won't want to miss.

coupon rules

Commissaries will start enforcing new policy revisions June 1 that limit coupon use to only one per item unless otherwise specified on a coupon. "We still gladly welcome the use of coupons. We're only limiting the number of coupons a customer can use per item to what is specifically stated on the coupons. If the coupons state more than one per item can be used, then we'll accept them. If it doesn't, then we'll accept only one per item," said Bob Vitikacs, the Defense Commissary Agency's executive director for operations and product support.

Online seminars

Service Credit Union offers free on-line seminars to its members. The next on-line seminar is scheduled for June 18, is: Buying and Borrowing – Information You Need To Know Before Your Next Real Estate Purchase.

This 60-minute seminar will teach:

- The current state of the housing market
- How to find a home that fits your needs
- What you should look for in a mortgage and much more.

SCU's real estate experts along with Re/Max will be available to answer questions after the seminar.

To find out more about SCU's

free on-line seminars or to sign up, visit SCU's website at www.servicecu.org or visit your local SCU branch office.

Deployment tip

If you are going back to the States during this deployment, you should inform your unit rear detachment commander and provide an emergency contact number to the unit. Provide a phone number, address and email if possible. The email will be the only means of communication you can expect from the unit if you depart Baumholder.

Save a life

Want to be a life saver? Interested in the prospect of saving up to three lives with just one easy act? Then be a blood donor! All blood products are used for military treatment facilities and emergencies. But, the supply doesn't always meet the demand. Donate blood and become someone's hero.

Come out and support your unit and the Armed Forces Blood Program. The blood drive will be held at the Baumholder Dental Clinic May 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for more information or to set up an appointment time. Walk ins are always welcome. Why not bring a friend? Ask for Fran Gernert at mil 485-

2210/2211 or civ (06783) 992210/992211

Tax center relocates

The Baumholder Tax Center has relocated to the first floor of the legal center, Building 8222 and is open to serve customers through June 13.

The center is open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call mil 385-6589.

AAFES is hiring

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is looking for team members. Apply on line by going to www.aafes.com and click on employment or pick up a paper application at one of their recruitment offices located at Baumholder in Building 8402, Vogelweh at Building 2011 or at Ramstein in Building 1123.

Starting pay for food service is \$7.89 an hour and \$7.33 an hour for most retail positions.

AFTB Level I

Army Family Team Building Level I is offered June 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the AFTB classroom, Building 8745, room 11. AFTB

Level I is an introductory class targeted toward people new to the Army or anyone interested in updating personal skills or basic Army knowledge. Classes are free and childcare is available on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact Jana Dye at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)-6-8188.

Support groups

A support group for military spouses to help them network, offer or receive support and get together so they can discuss various issues about being military spouses meets at noon the first and third Tuesday of every month at Iron Kids Playground.

All classes are free and children are welcome. Contact Melissa R. Petrone at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Expectant moms

A support group for mothers who are expecting meets regularly at the Army Community Services lounge. The group is for pregnant spouses and service member and offers an opportunity to get together and offer wisdom and support to one another. All classes are free. Contact Melissa R. Petrone at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for information or to sign up for this

class.

Careers

The Employment Readiness Program offers career enhancement classes every second Wednesday from 9 – 11 a.m. in the ACS conference room. Classes include Your Life's Portfolio, Job Search, How to Write a Winning Resume, and Follow Up, Filling Out Job Applications. These classes are intended to help improve and market careers. Classes are open to spouses and family members. For more information or to sign up call Camille Jackson at civ (06783) 6-8188.

Interviewing class

The Employment Readiness Program at Baumholder ACS offers Interviewing for Success classes the first Wednesday of each month. The first class meets June 18 from 9 – 11 a.m. in the ACS conference room.

The class will assist job seekers prepare for an interview, discuss frequently asked and difficult to answer questions, and how to dress. Participants are given possible interviewing scenarios and asked to discuss appropriate responses and reactions. Research is introduced from current career assistance publications, Internet and employment experts. They are shown how to research the hiring organization and prepare for the interview.

New mailroom does double duty

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public
Affairs Office

The new Baumholder consolidated mailroom is seeing a lot of business these days. Not only is the 12-member staff of the mailroom having to pitch mail into more than 6,000 active mailboxes, they are also receiving all mail for deployed soldiers, processing it and forwarding it down range.

"It's really busy. We really get jammed with a lot of mail because of the deployment. Our work has doubled because we get the mail in here and then we have to direct all that mail to where they're at (the deployed soldiers), so it's double work for us," said Idalia Leza, consolidated mailroom supervisor.

"This is a phenomenal effort," said Lt. Col. Todd A Buchs, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander. "These folks have really, truly worked 24 hours a day to make this happen (deployment support) down there," he said. "Go down to the mail room and see the 'thousands, not hundreds, thousands, of boxes and mail that they deal with every single day,'" he said when recognizing their efforts at a special 222nd BSB awards presentation.

"Amidst all that, as soldiers were flying out, I personally saw Idalia and Bill (Bill Kalavsky, 222nd BSB adjutant) in the Hall of Champions, the manifest site, at 2 o'clock in the morning at 4 o'clock in the morning, so as soldiers went, they had their final chance to make sure their mail got forwarded down range. They sacrificed many a nights, and early mornings to make sure that that happened for the soldiers," he said.

"We started moving into the facility in August of last year," said Leza. The units were moved in slowly and the last unit was in place about two weeks ago.

The new facility eliminates the need for soldiers to be assigned as mail clerks in each unit because the facility is operated by civilians, thereby allowing the soldiers to concentrate more on training and readiness.

Benefits for the Baumholder community include bigger mail boxes and better hours. The hours are now longer since the facility opens from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

There are also plans to make the facility a one-stop facility that meets all the postal requirements of the community. "The future plan is to have the APO in here also," said



Yon Buck double checks a deployed soldier's address before forwarding his mail down range.

Photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Leza.

"Most of the people like the new facility because the boxes are bigger and nicer and the hours are better. It's a brand new building and people like that," said Leza.

About the only drawback to the facility is the familiarity that customers had with their old mailroom clerks, who often provided small personal favors such as retrieving mail out of peoples' boxes, "but most of the feedback is positive," said Leza.

"We have about 6,000 active boxes and that means we have a lot of customers. We get to know some of them but not all of them," she said.

The concept for a consolidated mailroom did not happen overnight, nor was it constructed overnight.

"When I started working in the mailroom about four years ago there were already plans to create a consolidated mail room," said Lesa.

"With the renovation of the barracks (which started about six years ago) we eliminated all the unit mailrooms in the barracks," said Charlie Huebner, from Baumholder's 222nd Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public



Ron Alexander loads up a van with mail for deployed soldiers.

Works.

"I approached USAREUR and said hey, you're throwing all the mail rooms out of the barracks with the renovation, what about giving us some money for a mailroom?" said Huebner.

USAREUR eventually conceded and coughed up about \$1 million for a mailroom. That was about six years ago and the next question was, where will the new facility be located?

Many locations were put on the table for discussion until it was decided to use the old



Penny Eagens labels a package before storing it.

Iron Soldier Club facility.

"It's all together a nicer facility," said Leza. It's all together in here instead of having different locations everywhere," she said.

Although the facility has been operational for a few months, the official name is still in question, at least for community members. Some call it the community mail room while others call it the consolidated mailroom. Call it what you want but if you call it the new "CMR," you'll not only be talking about the new facility, you'll also be talking about the 12-member crew that's keeping the lines of communication open between family members and soldiers down range.



Idalia Leza watches as Jennifer Gatling and Penny Eagens store a heavy package.

Neubrück saves memories for deployed moms, dads

By Ignacio “Iggy”
Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Neubrück families will soon be pulling all their memories out of shoe boxes and preserving them in patriotic scrap books so that husbands and dads can catch up on all those special moments they missed while they were in Iraq.

The scrapbook club, organized by Veronica Kulka, will meet twice a month at Neubrück Elementary School. Kulka, who volunteers at the school and is the PTA president elect for the next school year, enlisted the assistance and support of Wayne Dozark, school principle, to help make the project a reality. Dozark is providing the parents a place to meet, work on their scrapbooks and socialize.

“We’ll meet twice a month at the school for a couple of hours, have pot lucks and have the sixth graders and seventh graders keep an eye on the little ones so the moms get some time together to do something special for the dads for when they come

home,” said Kulka.

Being a member of one of Baumholder’s more isolated and often forgotten satellite communities has not hindered Kulka’s efforts to make the scrapbook project happen. The project, in fact, has 100 percent support from Creative Memories, a company founded in St. Cloud, Minn., which provides photo storage products that include photo-safe albums, mounting products and album making supplies.

The company is donating all the supplies that Neubrück families will need to preserve those special moments for returning fathers and husbands.

“My sister contacted Beth Hahn, a district manager for Creative Memories in New Jersey. She was going to give us a good discount but she was so moved that we’re doing this specifically for deployed spouses that she decided instead to donate all the supplies,” said Kulka.

Hahn has also petitioned Creative Memories and the company’s consultants for assistance with this

project, according to Kulka.

“I think it’s important to keep, to save, to know, so that these dads know what we went through, good, bad, great, you know, fun, whatever, so the dads know what we’ve done while they were gone.

“That’s all it is really,” said Kulka.

“We’re going to take newspaper articles, pictures of our children, recitals, graduations, baby’s first teeth, first steps, digitals, whatever we need create our scrapbooks. You can accumulate a lot when you read the Stars and Stripes and the Herald Union,” she said.

“Of course I’ll mail my husband pictures. Wives will mail their husbands information and other stuff but nothing that’s got a special touch to it that the kids and moms worked together to create.

“So we’re going to come together as a group twice a month and create the scrapbook so when the dads come home they’ll have everything for that whole year that they missed in a book. They can reminisce about it and say, this is great,” said Kulka.



Photo by Veronica Kulka

Typpi Swans prepares a scrapbook page. She will be assisting Veronica Kulka with the memento project.